

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission

## § 2.764

authorization, or the issuance of an operating license or provisional operating authorization.

[27 FR 377, Jan. 13, 1962, as amended at 28 FR 7935, Aug. 3, 1963; 28 FR 10154, Sept. 17, 1963; 35 FR 5318, Mar. 31, 1970; 48 FR 52285, Nov. 17, 1983; 56 FR 29408, June 27, 1991]

### § 2.761a Separate hearings and decisions.

In a proceeding on an application for a construction permit for a utilization facility which is subject to § 51.20(b) of this chapter, and is of the type specified in § 51.21(b) (2) or (3) or § 50.22 of this chapter or is a testing facility, the presiding officer shall, unless the parties agree otherwise or the rights of any party would be prejudiced thereby, commence a hearing on issues covered by § 50.10(e)(2)(ii) and subpart A of part 51 of this chapter as soon as practicable after issuance of the staff of its final environmental impact statement, but no later than thirty (30) days after issuance of such statement, and complete such a hearing and issue an initial decision on such matters. Prehearing procedures regarding issues covered by subpart A of part 51 and § 51.10(e)(2)(ii) of this chapter, including any discovery and special prehearing conferences and prehearing conferences as provided in §§ 2.740, 2.740a, 2.740b, 2.741, 2.742, 2.751a, and 2.752, shall be scheduled accordingly. The provisions of §§ 2.754, 2.755, 2.760, 2.762, 2.763, and 2.764(a) shall apply to any proceeding conducted and any initial decision rendered in accordance with this section. Section 2.764(b) shall not apply to any partial initial decision rendered in accordance with this section. This section shall not preclude separate hearings and decisions on other particular issues.

[49 FR 9402, Mar. 12, 1984]

### § 2.763 Oral argument.

In its discretion the Commission may allow oral argument upon the request of a party made in a petition for review or brief on review, or upon its own initiative.

[56 FR 29408, June 27, 1991]

### § 2.764 Immediate effectiveness of initial decision directing issuance or amendment of construction permit or operating license.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) through (f) of this section, or as otherwise ordered by the Commission in special circumstances, an initial decision directing the issuance or amendment of a construction permit, a construction authorization, an operating license, or a license under 10 CFR part 72 to store spent fuel in an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at a reactor site shall be effective immediately upon issuance unless the presiding officer finds that good cause has been shown by a party why the initial decision should not become immediately effective, subject to review thereof and further decision by the Commission upon petition for review filed by any party pursuant to § 2.786 or upon its own motion.

(b) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) through (f) of this section, or as otherwise ordered by the Commission in special circumstances, the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation or Director of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, as appropriate, notwithstanding the filing or granting of a petition for review, shall issue a construction permit, a construction authorization, an operating license, or a license under 10 CFR part 72 to store spent fuel in an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at a reactor site, or amendments thereto, authorized by an initial decision, within ten (10) days from the date of issuance of the decision.

(c) An initial decision directing the issuance of an initial license for the construction and operation of an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) located at a site other than a reactor site or a monitored retrievable storage installation (MRS) under 10 CFR part 72 shall become effective only upon order of the Commission. The Director of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards shall not issue an initial license for the construction and operation of an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) located at a site other than a reactor site or a monitored retrievable storage installation

(MRS) under 10 CFR part 72 until expressly authorized to do so by the Commission.

(d) [Reserved]

(e) *Nuclear power reactor construction permits*—(1) *Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards.* (i) Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards shall hear and decide all issues that come before them, indicating in their decisions the type of licensing action, if any, which their decision would authorize. The Boards' decisions concerning construction permits shall not become effective until the Commission actions outlined in paragraph (e)(2) of this section have taken place.

(ii) In reaching their decisions the Boards should interpret existing regulations and regulatory policies with due consideration to the implications for those regulations and policies of the Three Mile Island accident. As provided in paragraph (e)(3) of this section, in addition to taking generic rule-making actions, the Commission will be providing case-by-case guidance on changes in regulatory policies in conducting its reviews in adjudicatory proceedings. The Boards shall, in turn, apply these revised regulations and policies in cases then pending before them to the extent that they are applicable. The Commission expects the Licensing Boards to pay particular attention in their decisions to analyzing the evidence on those safety and environmental issues arising under applicable Commission regulations and policies which the Boards believe present serious, close questions and which the Boards believe may be crucial to whether a license should become effective before full appellate review is completed. Furthermore, the Boards should identify any aspects of the case which in their judgment, present issues on which prompt Commission policy guidance is called for. The Boards may request the assistance of the parties in identifying such policy issues but, absent specific Commission directives, such policy issues shall not be the subject of discovery, examination, or cross-examination.

(2) *Commission.* Within sixty days of the service of any Licensing Board decision that would otherwise authorize issuance of a construction permit, the

Commission will seek to issue a decision on any stay motions that are timely filed. Such motions shall be filed as provided by 10 CFR 2.788. For the purpose of this policy, a "stay" motion is one that seeks to defer the effectiveness of a Licensing Board decision beyond the period necessary for the Commission action described herein. If no stay papers are filed, the Commission will, within the same time period (or earlier if possible), analyze the record and construction permit decision below on its own motion and will seek to issue a decision on whether a stay is warranted. It shall not, however, decide that a stay is warranted without giving the affected parties an opportunity to be heard. The initial decision will be considered stayed pending the Commission's decision. In deciding these stay questions, the Commission shall employ the procedures set out in 10 CFR 2.788.

(f) *Nuclear power reactor operating licenses*—(1) *Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards.* (i) Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards shall hear and decide all issues that come before them, indicating in their decisions the type of licensing action, if any, which their decision would authorize. A Board's decision authorizing issuance of an operating license may not become effective insofar as it authorizes operating at greater than 5 percent of rated power until the Commission actions outlined below in paragraph (f)(2) of this section have taken place. Insofar as it authorizes operation up to 5 percent, the decision is effective and the Director shall issue the appropriate license in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(ii) In reaching their decisions the Boards should interpret existing regulations and regulatory policies with due consideration to the implications for those regulations and policies of the Three Mile Island accident. In this regard it should be understood that as a result of analyses still under way the Commission may change its present regulations and regulatory policies in important respects and thus compliance with existing regulations may turn out to no longer warrant approval of a license application. As provided in

paragraph (f)(2) of this section, in addition to taking generic rulemaking actions, the Commission will be providing case-by-case guidance on changes in regulatory policies in conducting its reviews in adjudicatory proceedings. The Boards shall, in turn, apply these revised regulations and policies in cases then pending before them to the extent that they are applicable. The Commission expects the Licensing Boards to pay particular attention in their decisions to analyzing the evidence on those safety and environmental issues arising under applicable Commission regulations and policies which the Boards believe present serious, close questions and which the Boards believe may be crucial to whether a license should become effective before full appellate review is completed. Furthermore, the Boards should identify any aspects of the case which in their judgment, present issues on which prompt Commission policy guidance is called for. The Boards may request the assistance of the parties in identifying such policy issues but, absent specific Commission directive, such policy issues shall not be the subject of discovery, examination, or cross-examination.

(2) *Commission.* (i) Reserving the power to step in at an earlier time, the Commission will, upon receipt of the Licensing Board decision authorizing issuance of an operating license, other than a decision authorizing only fuel loading and low power (up to 5 percent of rated power) testing, review the matter on its own motion to determine whether to stay the effectiveness of the decision. An operating license decision will be stayed by the Commission, insofar as it authorizes other than fuel loading and low power testing, if it determines that it is in the public interest to do so, based on a consideration of the gravity of the substantive issue, the likelihood that it has been resolved incorrectly below, the degree to which correct resolution of the issue would be prejudiced by operation pending review, and other relevant public interest factors.

(ii) For operating license decisions other than those authorizing only fuel loading and low power testing consistent with the target schedule set

forth below, the parties may file brief comments with the Commission pointing out matters which, in their view, pertain to the immediate effectiveness issue. To be considered, such comments must be received within 10 days of the Board decision. However, the Commission may dispense with comments by so advising the parties. No extensive stay shall be issued without giving the affected parties an opportunity to be heard.

(iii) The Commission intends to issue a stay decision within 30 days of receipt of the Licensing Board's decision. The Licensing Board's initial decision will be considered stayed pending the Commission's decision insofar as it may authorize operations other than fuel loading and low power (up to 5 percent of rated power) testing.

(iv) In announcing a stay decision, the Commission may allow the proceeding to run its ordinary course or give instructions as to the future handling of the proceeding. Furthermore, the Commission may in a particular case determine that compliance with existing regulations and policies may no longer be sufficient to warrant approval of a license application and may alter those regulations and policies.

(g) The Commission's effectiveness determination is entirely without prejudice to proceedings under § 2.786 or § 2.788.

[36 FR 828, Jan. 19, 1971, as amended at 45 FR 74711, Nov. 12, 1980; 46 FR 13978, Feb. 25, 1981; 46 FR 28628, May 28, 1981; 46 FR 47765, Sept. 30, 1981; 47 FR 2305, Jan. 15, 1982; 47 FR 40536, Sept. 15, 1982; 48 FR 52286, Nov. 17, 1983; 54 FR 7757, Feb. 23, 1989; 54 FR 14944, Apr. 14, 1989; 56 FR 29408, June 27, 1991; 60 FR 20886, Apr. 28, 1995]

**§ 2.765 Immediate effectiveness of initial decision directing issuance or amendment of licenses under part 61 of this chapter.**

An initial decision directing the issuance of a license under part 61 of this chapter (relating to land disposal of radioactive waste) or any amendment to such a license authorizing actions which may significantly affect the health and safety of the public, will become effective only upon order of the Commission. The Director of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards may not issue a license under part 61 of this